



Pope Paul Catholic Primary School

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Liz Heymoz

Friday 28th August,

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a restful break and managed to enjoy the sunshine when it came. We are looking forward to welcoming your children back to school on Thursday 3rd September. We acknowledge that the last few months have been difficult for many families and that some children may be anxious about returning to school. Through the learning opportunities planned we will be seeking to rebuild relationships and will work to ensure that all our children feel happy and confident. The words of Barry Carpenter, CBE, Professor of Mental Health in Education, Oxford Brookes University, UK illustrate our aim, *“Our mission as educators, should be to journey with that child through a process of re-engagement, which leads them back to their rightful status as a fully engaged, authentic learner”*.

It is crucial that we make our school as safe as possible for our school community. Our risk assessment includes

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- procedures to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise the potential for contamination by grouping children together, avoiding contact between groups, arranging classrooms with forward facing desks and staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible

Please re visit the enclosed information that was sent in July outlining procedures and parent information published by Herts County Council.

In addition, the following link has useful information for parents.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Can parents come in to the school building?

In order to minimise the risk of infection, we ask that parents do not enter the school building unless they are coming to collect a child who is unwell. Any visitor who does enter the building must wear a face covering and sanitise their hands. If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please ring the office to make a telephone appointment or wait at the main entrance and a member of the office staff will speak to you whilst socially distanced.

Will there be daily temperature checks?

Public Health and Children's Services, Hertfordshire County Council do not recommend that children have their temperature checked on entrance to school. This is because:

- i) There is little scientific evidence to support temperature screening as a reliable method for detection of COVID 19 or other febrile illness, especially if used as the main method of testing.
- ii) Infected people who do not develop a fever or who do not show any symptoms would not be detected by a temperature reading and therefore may be falsely reassured.

Does my child need to wear a face mask to school?

Public Health and Children's Services, Hertfordshire County Council recommend that face-coverings should not be worn by children in primary schools. This is because:

- i) Younger children may have difficulty using them correctly –
- ii) misuse of face-coverings can increase the risk of spread of COVID-19 (eg because the user is touching their face more often without washing their hands).
- iii) Within a school children are mixing within the same group.
- iv) They can impede communication and therefore negatively impact education, particularly for children with SEND.

Do parents have to wear face masks in the school grounds?

No. We ask that parents maintain social distancing in the playground whilst bringing their children to school and waiting to collect their children at the end of the day. The outdoor equipment is strictly out of bounds before and after school. Please drop off your children and leave the school grounds promptly using the one-way system.

What time will school start and finish?

As indicated in July, we will be operating a soft start system every morning. Children should arrive between 8.45am and 9am. Children must be in school by 9am and will be recorded as late in the register if they arrive after that.

School will finish at 3.30pm Mondays to Thursdays and at 3.15pm on Fridays.

For children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who do not have any siblings in KS2 (Years 3 to 6) please collect your children at 3.20pm (Mondays to Thursdays) and 3.05pm on Fridays. This will help to ease any congestion at the school entrance and help to maintain social distancing.

Where will Year 6 be dismissed from at the end of the day?

Year 6 children will be dismissed at the end of the day from the blue sliding doors at the front of the school. This will help to maintain social distancing on the playground. Year 6 should enter the building in the morning from the KS2 playground as usual.

We are looking forward to working with you, albeit in a more remote way, this term. Please look out for further details which will be available on the website.

With best wishes

Liz Heymoz